

- Page 20, line 3, after ~~“that”~~ insert --the use information represents--;  
line 3, after ~~“times”~~ insert --to use the contents--;  
line 5, change ~~“given with”~~ to --set to--; and  
line 8, change ~~“correspondence only is”~~ to --is only--.
- Page 22, line 16, change ~~“acceptable, however,”~~ to --acceptable--;
- Page 23, line 1, change ~~“on”~~ to --having--;  
line 11, change ~~“on”~~ to --having--; and
- Page 24, line 17, change ~~“are”~~ to --is--.
- Page 34, line 13, after ~~“plurality of”~~ insert --the same--;  
lines 13 and 14, delete ~~“on the same book”~~;  
lines 14 and 15, change ~~“of the use for the contents”~~ to --to use the contents--.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please **AMEND** claims 1-7 as follows:

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1. (ONCE AMENDED) A license devolution apparatus [wherein] accessing a first storage medium [for] storing [therein] contents encrypted with a predetermined key, a first media ID [for] identifying [one's own self] the first storage medium, and a first encryption secure information [on which] generated by encrypting the key and a first use information, representing [representative of] a right [of using as] to use the contents, [are encrypted] together with one another or individually, with the first media ID, and accessing a second storage medium [for] storing [therein] a second media ID [for] identifying [one's own self are accessed so that] the second storage medium, wherein the right of using [as to] the contents stored in said first storage medium is devolved from said first storage medium to said second storage medium, said license devolution apparatus comprising:

decoding means for decoding the first encryption secure information stored in said first storage medium using the first media ID to obtain the key and the first use information; and

encryption means for encrypting with the second media ID the key [obtained through decoding by said decoding means] and a second use information, representing [representative of] a second right [of using] to use the contents that is devolved from the first storage medium to the second storage medium [in which a first right of using represented by the first use information obtained through decoding by said decoding means is transferred or distributed], together with one another or individually with the second media ID, to generate a second encryption secure information for [into] storage in said second storage medium.

2. (ONCE AMENDED) A license devolution apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said encryption means encrypts with the first media ID a third use information, [representative of a third right of using] obtained through subtracting the second use information [right of using] from the first use information, [right of using,] or encrypts with the first media ID both the key and the third right of using, [with the first media ID, and write encrypted ones into the first storage medium, so that the first storage medium stores therein] to generate a third encryption secure information and stores the third encryption secure key in the first storage medium [in which both the key and the third use information are encrypted with the first media ID, instead of the first encryption secure information].

3. (ONCE AMENDED) A license devolution apparatus according to claim 1, wherein [in the event that] if the entire rights of using [as to] the contents, to which the first storage medium is entitled, are devolved to the second storage medium, [said encryption means generates the key obtained through decoding by said decoding means and the second use information in which the second use information representative of the second right of using succeeded to the first right of using in its entirety is encrypted, into storage in the second storage means, and destroys] the key constituting the first encryption secure information stored in the first storage medium is destroyed.

4. (ONCE AMENDED) A license devolution apparatus according to claim 1, wherein before devolution of the right [of using as] to use contents, the first storage medium stores [therein] contents whose right to use is intended to be devolved as encrypted contents [as to which the right of using is intended to be devolved], and

wherein said license devolution apparatus further comprises contents transfer means for reading the encrypted contents from [of interest in devolution stored in] the first storage medium, and storing in the second storage medium the read encrypted contents [thus read in form of an encryption].

5. (ONCE AMENDED) A license devolution apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first use information and the second use information [are representative of] represent the presence of the right [of using] to use, and the third use information [is representative of] represents the absence of the right [of using] to use.

6. (ONCE AMENDED) A license devolution apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first use information [is representative of] represents a first available number of times or available time, the second use information [is representative of] represents a second available number of times or available time which is less than the first available number of times or available time, and the third use information [is representative of] represents a third available number of times or available time which is obtained through subtracting the second available number of times or available time from the first available number of times or available time.

7. (ONCE AMENDED) A license devolution apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a first drive and a second drive [for] driving the first storage medium and the second storage medium, respectively, said first drive and said second drive having a first firmware and second firmware [for] accessing the first storage medium and the second storage medium, respectively,